



News Advisory

For Immediate Release:
Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Media Contact:

Kevin Condra

Violence & Injury Prevention Program
(o) 801-538-6183 (m) 801-560-2778

Battling Back After Traumatic Brain Injuries

Conference to Help Families and Professionals Manage Injuries

- WHAT:** The Brain Injury Association of Utah's 19th Annual Families and Professionals Conference.
- WHY:** Approximately 44,000 Utahns, including many returning war veterans, are living with a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and in desperate need of medical and rehabilitation services. The conference provides an opportunity to learn about pain management, substance abuse, mental health, cultural diversity, horse- and animal-assisted therapy, and other means for helping individuals with TBIs succeed at home, school, and in the workplace.
- WHO:** Speakers include:
- Wade Justice, TBI Survivor and Professor, Pacific Northwest Univ.
 - Stephen Sheppard, Psychologist, University of Utah
 - Lillieth Grand, Music Therapist, Primary Children's Medical Center
- WHEN:** Thursday and Friday, October 8-9, 2008
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Speakers will be available for interviews after their presentations. TBI victims and their families will also be in attendance.
- Special interest sessions include *TBI and Mental Health in Returning Veterans*, *Benefits of Animal Assisted Therapy*, and *Forever Children: Family Panel on Milestones and Transitions*.
- WHERE:** Davis Conference Center
1651 North 700 West
Layton, Utah

NOTE: Photo opps include a hands-on demonstration of animal-assisted (horse) therapy and family panel on milestones and transitions.

#